



Louis H. Bruni
County Judge

1000 Houston St. 3rd Floor
Laredo, Texas 78040

(956) 523-4600
Fax (956) 523-5065

WEBB COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JUNE 03, 2003

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF DISASTER

Due to the severity of last night's storm, and the extensive damages that it caused, County Judge Louis H. Bruni declared Webb County to be a disaster area, and appealed to the Governor for assistance.

"As everyone knows, last night we suffered a sudden and severe storm with winds reaching up to 100 miles per hour. 100 mile per hour winds are equivalent to an F-1 tornado- and for those of you who remember hurricane Bulah- Bulah had 120 mile an hour winds. So, what happened last night was serious," said Judge Bruni, who spent much of Tuesday touring the County and studying staff reports about the extent of the damage.

"I am aware of the extensive damage suffered by the County of Webb in the City of Laredo, and in outlying colonias. There has been extensive property damage, loss of electricity, loss of water. Some families have lost homes, and our own Head Start program, which helps feed children, completely lost its facilities with all of those people now in need of displacement," said Bruni, who added that, "Due to the extensive and

widespread damage we have suffered, I am declaring Webb County to be in a state of disaster. I have forwarded a letter to Governor Perry advising him of our circumstances, and invoking government aid.”

With the declaration of a state of disaster, it is expected that the state government will send a team from the Emergency Management Division who will then assess the damages and determine what assistance is needed. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will also do their own survey and assessment after which financial assistance where appropriate will be provided for people who suffered property damage.

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